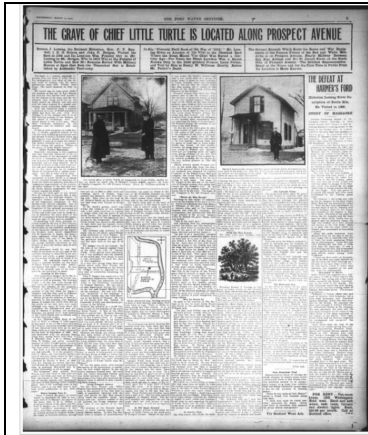


Excerpts about Miami burial ground in the Spy Run district
from a 1912 *Fort Wayne Sentinel* article



From "The Grave of Chief Little Turtle is Located Along Prospect Avenue" *The Fort Wayne Sentinel*, March 9, 1912, Page 7

<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/4911884/grave-of-little-turtle-1912-fw/>

This article was published shortly before Little Turtle's grave was found in a lot in the 600 block of Lawton Place later in 1912. Pegged to the centennial of Little Turtle's 1812 death, it evaluated various spots around Fort Wayne where local lore claimed the gravesite was located. The writer concluded there was good evidence that it was several hundred feet east of Spy Run Avenue, which turned out to be correct, but thought the grave was most likely along Prospect Avenue, which is about 1,000 feet south of Lawton Place.

tion of the grave of Little Turtle as many old-time authorities locate it. The site is on a somewhat elevated tract of ground, considerable higher than the land east of it, near to the avenue, and within a few feet of the front of the lot. Away back in 1812, with forest trees all around in the vicinity and not far from the house where he had lived for a time before his death, it would seem to have been an ideal spot for the burial of the chief. That many Indians were buried in that immediate vicinity there is no doubt. In the excavations for residences built there many Indian bones have been exhumed, and with them a vast array of relics—tomahawks, swords, guns, pistols, beads, etc. Such is the confidence of Mr. Williams that this is the location of the Turtle

Describing one rumored spot at 633 Prospect Avenue and talking about it with Henry W. Williams, "an authority on historic sites" in the city, who said he had been told where the grave was by the late Louis Peltier, a pioneer resident of Fort Wayne who was born in 1813, the article observes:

"That many Indians were buried in that immediate vicinity there is no doubt. In the excavations for residences built there many Indian bones have been exhumed, and with them a vast array of relics – tomahawks, swords, guns, pistols, beads, etc."

Along Spy Run Avenue.
For some years past Marshal Commineavish, whose home is at 1610 Spy Run avenue, has made the claim that the grave of Little Turtle is on his lot, located in the yard in front of his residence. This would place it farther north by about two squares than the location given by Mr. Williams, and some distance west, nearer to the entrance to Lawton park, being on the north side of Anderson avenue, a new street which was put through only a few years ago. To make way for this street an old brick house was torn down, a house that was long known as "Little Turtle's Lodge." It never belonged to the chief, but was built by Captain Hackley, the son-in-law of Captain Wells, who was a brother-in-law of Little Turtle. In grading for Anderson avenue, which ran through the old orchard, many Indian graves were found. In fact, close to and around the home of Mr. Commineavish was one of the burial grounds of the Indians. He has a large collection of Indian relics, stone arrow-heads, tomahawks, stone pipes, old flintlock guns, beads, earrings, pottery, etc., taken from these graves.

A man named Marshal Commineavish, who lived at 1610 Spy Run Avenue (between what is today Anderson Avenue and Tennessee Avenue, so a block closer to the actual grave than Prospect Avenue) thought the grave was instead on the north side of his property. When Anderson Avenue had been built through a former orchard on the tract a few years earlier,

"...many Indian graves were found. In fact, close to and around the home of Mr. Commineavish was one of the burial grounds of the Indians. He has a large collection of Indian relics, stone arrow-heads, tomahawks, stone pipes, old flintlock guns, beads, earrings, pottery, etc., taken from these graves."

from these graves.

A number of pioneers, among whom Mr. Commineavish says, were Louis Bourie and Mrs. McDaniel, have pointed out the spot in his front yard, near the north side of it, as the grave of Little Turtle.

Mr. Commineavish is the fourth individual owner of the property. The tract of which it was a part came from Captain Wells to Captain Hackley, who had sold it to Mr. Anderson. Captain Hackley had told Mr. Anderson where the grave of Little Turtle was, and Mr. Anderson told Mr. Commineavish soon after he had purchased the lots, which was twenty-three years ago.

"Mr. Anderson told me," said Mr. Commineavish, "that Little Turtle was buried in the front yard, close to a tree that stood near to the fence. Soon afterwards I cut the tree down. The stump I left standing. He told me of other graves and wherever I dug I always found the remains of Indians and Indian

relics at the points he indicated. I am certain that the grave of Little Turtle is in my front yard at the point he indicated and which I am now pointing out to you."

Commineavish said he had bought his property around 1889 from a Mr. Anderson, who had in turn bought it from Captain James Hackley Jr. (Little Turtle's daughter Sweet Breeze married Captain William Wells, who owned what became the Spy Run district. One of their daughters, Rebecca, married Hackley, and they apparently inherited part of it after Wells was killed later in 1812. Hackley appears to have died in 1826, so Anderson would have talked with him at least 63 years earlier than when he sold the tract to Commineavish.)

Commineavish told the reporter that Anderson had "told me of other graves and wherever I dug I always found the remains of Indians and Indian relics at the points he indicated."

GRAVE OF LITTLE TURTLE LOCATED BY J. M. STOUDER

That one of the Indian graves uncovered in the construction of a drain in the rear of the residence of Dr. George W. Gillie, 634 Lawton place, was that of Little Turtle, one of the most celebrated chieftans in American history, has been proved conclusively through the efforts of Jacob M. Stouder, present owner of the skull, trinkets, weapons and other articles found in the grave; Attorney Howard Hanthorn and Charles H. Worden, vice-president of the First National bank, and others interested in the early history of Fort Wayne.

Not until these gentlemen were absolutely sure that their theory was true did they make the startling announcement and they are now prepared to furnish irrefutable proofs. It is to Mr. Stouder that the major portion of the credit for the important discovery is due. It was he who found the relics after they had become scattered and lain in obscurity and who at the first sight of them saw the possible connection with the great Miami warrior and set about to obtain proof for this theory. That he has been successful is admitted by everyone to whom the evidence has been submitted.

In a locked case in the First National bank there is on exhibition the skull of the noted Indian, the sword that history says was presented to him by General George Washington when the chief went to the capital to plead with the government to pass laws making it impossible for liquor to be obtained by his tribesmen; four large silver crosses, two of which are known to have been given him by the Jesuit fathers at Detroit and Piqua, Ohio, and the ear rings, medal, arm bands, beads and trinkets shown in the only existing picture of him. The medal was presented the chief at the treaty of Greenville, Ohio.

Little Turtle died on July 14, 1812, and was buried some place along St. Joseph's river. There was no permanent marking for the grave, which was in an Indian burying ground, and for nearly half a century there has been none who could point out the exact location of the last resting place of the renowned red man. After he had spent many weeks assembling his proofs Mr. Stouder last evening accidentally came upon something to which he attaches as much value as any other link in the conclusive chain that he has constructed. While en route to his home on a street car he chanced to mention his discovery to W. D. Schiefer, of the Schiefer & Sons shoe store, and the latter at once became deeply interested. He told Mr. Stouder that while in 1885 he was living on the old Barnett farm, which comprised land that is now a large portion of the Spy Run district, an old man named Hedges, a pioneer of the county, who had been present at the funeral of Little Turtle, visited him and pointed out to him as nearly as he could recollect the exact spot where Little Turtle's body had been interred. Although he had not been to the locality since Spy Run avenue was built up, Mr. Schiefer went with Mr. Stouder to show him the spot indicated by Mr. Hedges and in the darkness took him to a point within 100 feet of the place where the graves were found.

The Indian burying ground, in which Little Turtle's grave was discovered, was unearthed by a gang of men employed by Albert and Charles Lochner, contractors, who were building a house for Dr. Gillie. In digging the cellar bones of Indians were found and in constructing a drain from the site of the house to the river a grave was opened that was apparently that of an Indian of importance—doubtless a chief. The silver crosses, the sword and other ornaments were kept by the Lochner brothers, while the skull was given by them to Dr. Merle C. Ivins, who reset in the jaws and the teeth that had fallen out and were found in the grave. The balance of the contents of the tomb were scattered about the city and it was with considerable difficulty and no little expense that Mr. Stouder collected them after he learned of their existence two months ago.

The Journal-Gazette will on Sunday morning devote an entire page to the discovery and will present Mr. Stouder's proofs in full, together with his own story of how he obtained them, and an engrossing story of the life and accomplishments of Little Turtle, compiled by Attorney Howard Hanthorn. Accompanying the article will be shown photographs of each of the collection.



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THE GRAVE OF LITTLE TURTLE

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THE GRAVE OF LITTLE TURTLE.

THE grave of Little Turtle, the noted Miami chief, has long been lost to knowledge, but it is thought that it has at last been found and identified beyond all doubt. The chieftain was buried somewhere on the Fort Wayne site in July, 1812, his death having occurred July 14, and the finding of the grave was within a few days of being an exact century. Mr. J. M. Stouder, to whom belongs the credit of identifying the grave, published the following account in the Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette of August 4. By letter Mr. Stouder informs us that the spot he describes was, perhaps, the last cemetery of the Miamis at Fort Wayne, and that more than twenty-five bodies have been exhumed in that locality. The skull found with the identifying relics has been sent to the Smithsonian Institute for examination, and on its return will be returned to the grave, and steps will be taken toward erecting a fitting monument to the memory of the chief.

ACCOUNT BY J. M. STOUDER.

July 4, 1912, will hereafter be memorable to the citizens of Fort Wayne and Allen county. On that day Albert and Charles Lochner uncovered the grave of Little Turtle, the great Miami war chief.

The brothers had contracted to build a house for Dr. George W. Gillie on Lawton place, and in digging the cellar uncovered several Indian graves. Noticing that whatever was in the graves was appropriated by the laborers, the contractors called off the crew and with the assistance of Dr. George W. Gillie dug the drain in which the grave of Little Turtle was found.

The finders had no idea of the identity of the body. The skull was carefully kept and presented to Dr. M. W. Ivins, dentist at 1118 Rivermet avenue, who had requested the Lochner brothers to save a good specimen for him. The balance of the remains were scattered and carried away by the curious as mementos.

Around the neck of the chief was found the string of silver beads and crosses and in the few remaining tufts of hair on the

back of the skull was the string of white shell beads. The hair was also tied with a buckskin thong, and, from the description given by the Lochner brothers was well preserved. The vermilion war paint was beneath the chieftain's knees, the solid silver armlets on his arms, the anklet and the famous sword, the gun and the remnant of the pistol were at his side. The various other implements had been placed in various other parts of the grave and had probably become disarranged in the digging of the drain. On the breast were the silver discs, believed to be medals. These were fastened together by means of a buckskin thong and are shown in the collection just as they were found.

About a month ago I had occasion to visit the home of Albert Lochner and asked to see the Indian relics that I knew he had in his possession, as I am always interested in such discoveries. I was immediately struck by the apparent wealth and importance of the find and began an investigation as to the identity of the person in the grave. Early in my research work I became convinced that Albert and Charles Lochner and Dr. Gillie had discovered the grave of Little Turtle. I am greatly indebted to Miss Eliza Rudisill, Mr. Howard Hanthorn and Mr. Charles H. Worden for the assistance they have given me in identifying the grave of the greatest chief of his time.

Articles taken from the grave are: Eight silver bracelets, two silver anklets, one heavy metal bracelet, three silver medals, on the inside of one of which is a small remnant of canvas; four silver brooches, one pair of silver earrings and six pendants, one string of silver beads, twenty-three silver crosses, each one inch in length; four silver crosses, each six inches long; one sword, with silver hilt, wrapped with gold braid, which we are certain is that presented to the chief by General George Washington; one string of white shell beads, four metal buttons, one small pocket knife, one large clasp knife of very old design, one drinking cup, one metal spoon, one pair of shears, one hammer, one gun barrel, from which rotted portions of the stock fell when it was lifted from the grave; one pair of bullet moulds, one flint lock, the only remains of a pistol; two flints for gun and pistol, three large knives, one pair of steel spurs, one ax, one tomahawk, one copper

kettle, containing when found beans and corn which went to a fine powder when exposed to the air, and the skull of the great red leader.

That within so comparatively short a period of time as a hundred years the grave of this illustrious man should have been forgotten seems strange, and now that the grave has been found the spot should be appropriately marked by the patriotic people of Indiana.

I have been asked how I know so positively that this is the grave of Little Turtle. Bryce, in his History of Fort Wayne, says that Little Turtle was buried with the sword presented him by General Washington and the medal given him at the treaty of Greenville. I have them both, together with all of his weapons and ornaments.

Jacob Piatt Dunn, secretary of the Indiana Historical Society, says that Little Turtle was buried on the bank of St. Joseph's river and when the interment was made it was considerably north of what was then Fort Wayne.

The final proof came to me Thursday evening. W. D. Schiefer, of the Schiefer shoe store, volunteered the information that while he resided on the old Barnett place in 1875 a man named Hedges, who had been present at the burial of Little Turtle, had pointed out to him the exact location of the grave as well as the old man could remember. Without any suggestions from me, and, although he had not been in that locality since Spy Run was laid out, Mr. Schiefer took me to within one hundred feet of the place where the grave was uncovered. From Mr. Schiefer I have the following statement:

"Fort Wayne, Indiana, August 1, 1912.

"I was personally acquainted with a pioneer resident of Allen county named Hedges, who was present at the burial of Little Turtle, and while living on the Barnett place in 1875, Mr. Hedges visited me and pointed out to me as near as he could recollect the place where Little Turtle's body had been interred on the edge of the farm along the river.

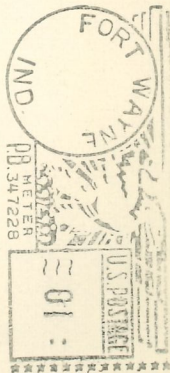
W. D. SCHIEFER."

The Allen County-Fort Wayne
Historical Society
Museum, Swinney Homestead
W. Jefferson St.
Fort Wayne, Indiana

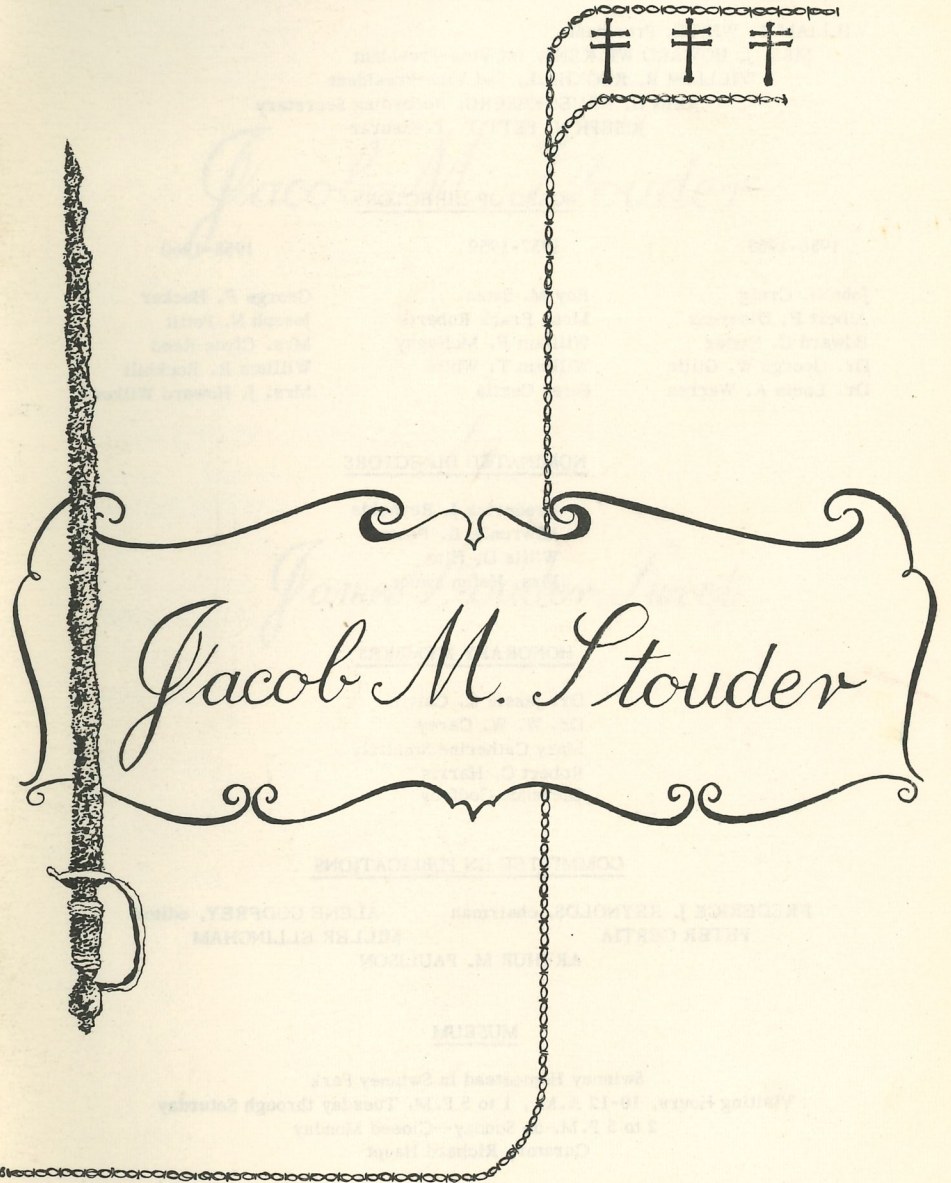
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Museum, Swinney Park
Fort Wayne, Indiana

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Jacob M. Stouder

by

James Stouder Sweet

This pamphlet is published by the Allen County-Fort Wayne Historical Society.

For authenticity all quotations have been presented in original form.

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JAMES STOUDEER SWEET

James Stouder Sweet, Ph. D., is a grandson of Jacob M. Stouder and the son of Mrs. Warren V. Sweet and the late Warren V. Sweet. Dr. Sweet is at present engaged in editorial work on the Encyclopedia Britannica in Chicago. His assignment is with the law, political science, international relations, European, Russian and Near Eastern History, and Geography articles. He spent six years in the Library of Congress doing research in United States History. It was during this time that he unearthed the Smithsonian correspondence about Little Turtle. He received his Ph. D. degree in European History in 1955 from the University of California, Los Angeles.

The following article, written especially for the Allen County - Fort Wayne Historical Society at the request of Bessie K. Roberts, has been a labor of love by a man whose youth in Fort Wayne was enriched by his contact with his adventurous grandfather.

of Albert Lochner and asked to see the Indian relics that I knew he had in his possession, as I am always interested in such discoveries. I was immediately struck by the apparent wealth and importance of the find and began an investigation as to the identity of the find.

When Jacob M. Stouder, local historian and Indian enthusiast, identified the grave of Little Turtle on July 4, 1912, he was continuing the hobby he had taken up as a young man. In 1885, at the age of twenty-four, he had gone west to the Dakota Territory to try his hand at ranching. It was at that time he had made the acquaintance of Sitting Bull, the Sioux Medicine man, for whom he felt great admiration. When he returned to Fort Wayne in 1890 to make his permanent home, the spell of his Indian friendships still held him.

"July 4, 1912," Stouder announced in the FORT WAYNE JOURNAL-GAZETTE on August 4, 1912, "will hereafter be memorable to the citizens of Fort Wayne and Allen County. On that day Albert and Charles Lochner uncovered the grave of Little Turtle, the great Miami war chief."

The INDIANA QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF HISTORY carried Stouder's story of the find in the issue of September, 1912. The two accounts were substantially the same.

The Lochner brothers had contracted to build a house for Dr. and Mrs. George W. Gillie on Lawton Place, Fort Wayne, and in digging the cellar had uncovered several Indian graves. Noticing that whatever was in the graves was being appropriated by the workmen, the contractors called off the crew. Later with the assistance of Dr. Gillie they dug the drain in which the grave of Little Turtle was found.

"About a month ago," Stouder reported in the Fort Wayne paper, "I had occasion to visit the home

of Albert Lochner and asked to see the Indian relics that I knew he had in his possession, as I am always interested in such discoveries. I was immediately struck by the apparent wealth and importance of the find and began an investigation as to the identity of the person in the grave. Early in my research I became convinced that Albert and Charles Lochner and Dr. Gillie had discovered the grave of Little Turtle."

Among the articles found in the grave was a sword given the chief by the United States Government during the administration of President George Washington. The sword and other Little Turtle relics are now in the collection of the Allen County-Fort Wayne Historical Society in Swinney Park.

Assisting Stouder in attempting to identify the remains were Miss Eliza Rudisill, Howard Hanthorn, and Charles H. Worden.

Around the neck of the chief was found a string of silver beads and crosses. Vermilion war paint was found beneath his knees, solid silver armlets on his arms, an anklet, and the famous sword at his side. Various other implements had been placed in other parts of the grave, Stouder reported, and had probably become disarranged in the digging. On the breast were several silver discs believed to be medals. These were fastened together by a buckskin thong.

Items taken from the grave were: eight silver bracelets, two silver anklets, one heavy metal bracelet, three silver medals, four silver brooches, one pair of silver earrings, six pendants, one string of silver beads, twenty-three silver crosses one inch in length, four silver crosses--each six inches long, a string of white shell beads, four metal buttons, a small pocket knife, a large clasp knife, a gun barrel --from which rotted portions of the stock fell when it

was lifted from the grave, a pair of bullet moulds, a flint lock--the only remains of a pistol, two flints for gun and pistol, three large knives, a pair of steel spurs, an ax, a tomahawk, and a copper kettle containing beans and corn which went to a fine powder when exposed to the air.

The sword, of which Stouder remarked, ". . . we are certain is that presented the chief by General George Washington," had a silver hilt, and was wrapped with gold braid.

"That within so comparatively a short time as a hundred years the grave of this illustrious man should have been forgotten seems strange," said Stouder, "and now that the grave has been found, the spot should be appropriately marked by the patriotic people of Indiana."

The idea of marking the grave was one of which Stouder had already proposed to the United States Government in a letter to the Smithsonian Institute in Washington on July 26, 1912. He was unable to interest anyone, and eventually placed a small marker at the burial place at his own expense.

"I have been asked how I knew so positively that this is the grave of Little Turtle," he continued. "Brice, in his HISTORY OF FORT WAYNE, says that Little Turtle was buried with the sword presented to him by General Washington and the medal given him at the Treaty of Greenville. I have them both, together with all his weapons and ornaments."

Jacob Piatt Dunn, secretary of the Indiana Historical Society, says that Little Turtle was buried on the bank of the St. Joseph River and when the interment was made it was considerably north of what was then Fort Wayne.

The final proof came to me Thursday evening.

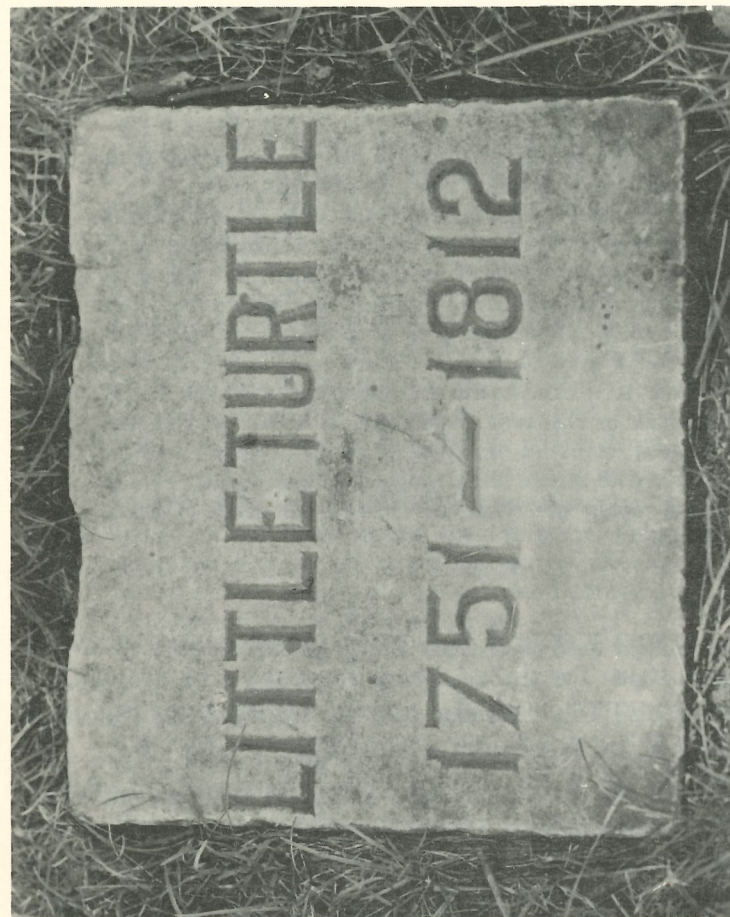
W. D. Schiefer of the Schiefer store, volunteered the information that while he resided on the old Barnett place in 1875 a man named Hedges, who had been present at the burial of Little Turtle, had pointed out to him the exact location of the grave as well as the old man could remember. Without any suggestions from me, and, although he had not been in that locality since Spy Run was laid out, Mr. Schiefer took me to within one hundred feet of the place where the grave was uncovered. From Mr. Schiefer I have the following statement:

Fort Wayne, Indiana,
August 1, 1912

I was personally acquainted with a pioneer resident of Allen County named Hedges, who was present at the burial of Little Turtle, and while living on the Barnett place in 1875, Mr. Hedges visited me and pointed out to me as near as he could recollect the place where Little Turtle's body had been interred on the edge of the farm, along the river.

W. D. Schiefer.

So far as Stouder and most residents of Fort Wayne were concerned, the grave was definitely identified. But somehow the skull found in the grave had disappeared. What happened to it is still a mystery. Stouder sent what he thought was the Little Turtle skull to the Smithsonian Institution and confidently awaited the report of the trained ethnologists. His correspondence with the Smithsonian, recently found filed away in the Archives of the Bureau of American Ethnology on the creaky floor of the Smithsonian main building in Washington, D. C., forms an interesting complement to his report in the JOURNAL-GAZETTE and the INDIANA MAGAZINE OF HISTORY. It concerns the finding of a skull which turned out to be



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Marker over Little Turtle's burial place

that of a young Indian woman.

DR. GILLIE'S RECOLLECTION

Dr. Gillie recalls:

It was July 4th, and we had taken our two girls to visit their grandparents in Columbus, Ohio.

When we got back the next day, it was awfully quiet around there, and a lot of bones were lying about. It was a week later that I found out about the graves. Then we began digging. We dug up the whole back yard, all but the barn which had a cement floor. We found sixteen graves. Each body had a string of beads or a cross with it. But none with the lavish number of crosses, ornaments of silver and shells, knives, utensils, tomahawk, parts of guns, and the sword with silver hilt wrapped with gold braid. There is no doubt in my mind. It was the grave of Little Turtle.

Shortly before his letter announcing discovery of the Little Turtle remains appeared in the JOURNAL-GAZETTE, Stouder had written the Smithsonian Institution in Washington concerning the find. On July 29, 1912, F. W. Hodge, the ethnologist in charge at the Smithsonian, replied asking for a list of the items found in the grave. To Stouder's inquiry as to whether the Government wished to erect a marker, he said that it could only be accomplished by a specific appropriation for the purpose by Congress. He suggested that the local patriotic organizations be approached. At the same time he wrote Stouder, Hodge wrote Jacob F. Dunn, author of TRUE INDIAN

STORIES, in Indianapolis, enclosing copies of the correspondence.

On August 1, Stouder replied as follows:

Little Turtle's grave was found in the bank of the St. Joseph River about 1/2 mile north of the junction of the St. Joseph and St. Mary's rivers. It was found during the erection of a house for present owner of lot by Chas. & Albert Lochner. They had excavated for cellar and found an Indian burying ground and had uncovered seven or eight skeletons with few or no ornaments, and thinking that there might be something of importance found called off the men who were digging drain from cellar and cistern, and on July 4th, 1912, uncovered the grave of Little Turtle. They carefully preserved its contents putting them in a box and storing them in a cellar. The skull from the grave they presented to a friend and the incident was closed as far as they were concerned. Mention was made of the find but no investigation was made. About three weeks ago the writer first saw the contents of the grave and was struck with the apparent wealth of man who had all these things buried with him and began an investigation.

I found that Little Turtle had been buried on the bank of St. Joseph River north of Ft. Wayne with all his ornaments, medals, weapons, and sword, no one knew where--and as our oldest citizens only knew that he was buried somewhere on Wells Reserve but not the spot we had to make quite an investigation. We sec'd more information in regard to location of grave from Jacob Dunn's book, TRUE INDIAN STORIES, published by INDIANAPOLIS SENTINEL than any other source, although Brice's HISTORY OF FT. WAYNE gives an interesting account of his burial, the honors paid his memory and contents of grave.

Little Turtle must have been a patriarch in the Catholic Church as I understand the style crosses worn by him were only used by those in authority. His skull should be photographed and a cast made of it, as it betokens a man of rare executive and spiritual power.

What Stouder believed to be the skull of Little Turtle and the relics, he stated, were on exhibit in the First National Bank of Fort Wayne.

Stouder continued,

As Little Turtle was the friend of Genl. Washington and the practical center round which all the Indian affairs of the N. W. Territories revolved, it seems to me that the importance of this find should be recorded and suitable steps taken to preserve this most valuable collection and to mark the spot in which his body was buried with the honors of war by the U. S. garrison then at Ft. Wayne.

After noting that he was enclosing a list of the contents of the grave, Stouder stated that the grave was located on lot #28, of the Lawton Place addition, Fort Wayne, Indiana, owned by Dr. and Mrs. George W. Gillie.

In his reply, Hodge enclosed a reproduction of a portrait of Little Turtle about which Stouder had asked and requested that Little Turtle's skull might be sent the Smithsonian, suggesting that it be placed on exhibit in the U. S. National Museum and promising that a plaster cast would be sent in return. Stouder replied that he had the skull and would send it, but thought that ". . . if we could prevail upon the authorities to do so it would be a fine thing to have it here in Ft. Wayne with a monument." He enclosed a

copy of the FORT WAYNE JOURNAL-GAZETTE of August 4 containing illustrations of the grave contents. On August 12 Stouder forwarded the skull by Adams Express and requested a plaster copy for himself. Several days later, Hodge replied that Dr. Hrdlicka of the National Museum, a specialist in physical anthropology, would examine the skull upon his return from Europe. A memorandum from Hodge to W. H. Holmes, head curator of anthropology in the U. S. National Museum, a branch of the Smithsonian, stated that while plaster copies were being made, a duplicate could be prepared for Dr. Harris Hawthorne Wilder of Smith College, who desired to make some experiments in restoring the soft tissues by a process employed in Europe.

So far everyone believed that the skull that had been sent to Washington was that of Little Turtle. Stouder, of course, had not been present when the skull and relics had been removed. According to the JOURNAL-GAZETTE letter of August 4, the Lochners and Dr. Gillie had presented the skull to Dr. M. W. Ivins, a dentist, of 1118 Rivermet Avenue, who had requested the Lochners to save a good specimen for him. It was doubtless this skull which Stouder sent to Washington.

On October 4, Hodge wrote that Dr. Hrdlicka had returned, ". . . and much to my surprise, reports, after an examination of the skull supposed to be that of Little Turtle, that it is the skull of a woman of 22 or 23 years of age. The sex and age characteristics of the cranium are so well marked that Dr. Hrdlicka regards these conclusions as beyond question. Doubtless the young woman had been interred near Little Turtle's grave," he remarked.

On the first of November, Stouder replied:

I have made a pretty thorough investigation and find that four graves were opened in a space of about twelve feet and that there were four skulls taken out, some of which were broken. The skull sent you was the one the Lochners said had come out of grave, but Mr. Chas. Lochner said that especial attention was not paid to it. The three remaining skulls were placed back in trench and buried. When you consider that the trench was only 18" wide you can readily see that it is easy for them to be mistaken. When opportunity presents itself I am going to try to open the grave again. They describe the leg bones found in this grave as being very heavy and as they are in there yet it will be a comparatively easy matter to get them. Could you identify skull by any picture extent as we would have to send all three?

Hodge's response requested that if the graves were reopened all the bones should be sent. The graves were not reopened.

The denouement came on December 14, 1912, when the FORT WAYNE DAILY NEWS carried the following story:

STOUDER'S STEALTHY SILENCE: OR, WHEN IS AN INDIAN CHIEF NOT AN INDIAN CHIEF?

Late in July, 1912, one night when the moon was shining brightly and most folks were in bed, Mr. Stouder gathered a little corps of workmen and began to dig up the ground at the rear of the Lawton Place lot, above the grave. (Certainly a new, if not an overly imaginative, version of the affair.) The earth was soft, and it was not long before one of the spades struck something solid. By the light of the moon Stouder examined the skull and found it to be without

doubt the skull of an Indian. Little Turtle's grave discovered at last! Victory!

A morning newspaper published a full-page feature story with pictures of J. M. Stouder, Little Turtle, the famous sword, and a plat showing the location of the grave on Lawton Place. The story was copied in brief form by press bureaus, and papers all over the country.

All relics were gathered together in a glass case, and placed in the corridor of the First National Bank, where they were viewed by hundreds of people. The greatest interest was exhibited, and the local historians assured Mr. Stouder that his name would go down in history as one of the greatest investigators and Indian relic experts of all times.

Backed by an enthusiastic bunch of local antiquarians, a movement was started and soon gained great headway to erect a monument for Little Turtle over the grave that he occupied during all of those years. The enthusiasts even went so far as to prepare an inscription which was to be placed on the monument. Considerable money had been promised.

About this time the indignation of the antiquarians and especially of J. M. Stouder was aroused when some miserable, low-down, pessimistic cuss suggested that the skull of Little Turtle be sent to the bureau of ethnology at Smithsonian Institution, Washington for verification. Not that there could be any doubt about the matter, but why not have the official recognition of the monument. Perhaps Congress would make an appropriation for a monument.

So, stated the NEWS, the skull was boxed and shipped off.

As far as the Fort Wayne public knows, that

was the end of the affair. So far as the public knows J. M. Stouder is still the much-to-be envied anti-quarian and the world-famous discoverer of the eternal resting place of that divine Indian, Little Turtle. So far as the public knows, the sword that was found in the grave is the original blade with which George Washington slashed his enemies during the wars in which he took an active part. No one seems to notice that the exhibition of relics in the First National Bank had been quietly removed. No one seemed to think it strange that Mr. Stouder suddenly shut up like a clam, and looked askance at any one who mentioned Little Turtle. Apparently, no one thought to erect a monument over the grave of Little Turtle on Lawton Place.

And here is the answer. . . .

A letter from T. W. Hand, ethnologist in charge at the Smithsonian, to the FORT WAYNE NEWS was then reproduced. It repeated the information which had already been sent Stouder by Hodge: the skull was that of a young Indian woman.

Stouder wrote the Smithsonian on December 16 enclosing a copy of the NEWS article, stating somewhat plaintively, "In furnishing copy for publication would it not be proper to furnish all the correspondence, as I have made no attempt to conceal any of the facts in relation to this question? It seems that some of the brethren are unduly worked up. Immediately on receipt of your letter, I informed all the parties that were concerned and of course they were under no obligation not to tell about it."

Hodge replied, "I see no objection to the publication of the correspondence relating to the finding of the skeletons with their accompanying objects. As the site of the grave of Little Turtle was approximately known to you, the findings of the skeletal re-

mains and of the numerous objects associated therewith made the mistake a most natural one."

So ends the file of 1912 letters in the Smithsonian.

It can be said that more of mischief than malice prompted the NEWS article.

Stouder kept the Little Turtle mementoes for several years. Illustrations of some of them appeared in 1917 in Calvin Young's book on Little Turtle, published by the Sentinel Printing Company, Indianapolis. The Young book also contained a description of a trip the author made with Stouder on August 4, 1913, to visit Kil-so-quah, a granddaughter of Little Turtle, at Roanoke, Indiana. Kil-so-quah at the time was 103 years old. She reminisced about her early life in the Fort Wayne area. She appeared to believe that Dr. Gillie and the Lochners had in fact discovered her grandfather's grave.

Young decided that the objects being held by Stouder really belonged to Little Turtle, although he noted that he had come prepared to disbelieve. During the twenties the artifacts were placed in the Allen County-Fort Wayne Historical Museum, where they may be seen at the present time. Mr. Stouder had been an active member of the society, and had served as a member of the board of directors. He was evidently well-acquainted with Bert J. Griswold, author of the PICTORIAL HISTORY OF FORT WAYNE, who mentions trying to identify the site of Miami Town, and the old French village, in Stouder's company. Griswold also furnished details on Stouder's connection with the Little Turtle story.

GREAT MIAMI WAR CHIEF

Little Turtle (Me-she-kin-no-quah), great war chief of the Miamis, born on the Eel River to the west of the present site of Fort Wayne in 1752, led the Indians in battles against Generals Harmar, St. Clair, and Wayne in the early days of the Republic.

Following St. Clair's defeat at the site of Fort Recovery, Ohio, in 1791, Little Turtle appears vainly to have counseled that his people seek a peaceful settlement with the United States government. At the battle of Fallen Timbers, he led part of the Indian forces. He was among those who signed the Treaty of Greenville. In 1797 he visited Philadelphia, then the national capital, and met President George Washington. He subsequently succeeded in dissuading the Miamis from joining Tecumseh's attack on the frontier settlements. He died in 1812.

His greatest exploit was his leadership of the Indian forces that defeated General St. Clair. This humiliating defeat led to the first Congressional investigation in United States history and the better organized expedition of General Anthony Wayne which finally defeated the Indians in northwestern Ohio.

Little Turtle's son-in-law, William Wells, a white man who had been kidnapped in his youth by the Indians and raised as one of them, also played an important role in early Fort Wayne history, acting as the local Indian agent for several years.

JAKE STOUDEER'S INDIAN FRIENDS

How did Stouder acquire this Indian mania?
The only Indians in Fort Wayne by the time he arrived



Jacob M. Stouder

as a youngster with his family from Millersport, Ohio, about 1877, were probably cigar store Indians.

His hobby can be explained. After clerking in the Pfeiffer and Schlatter Hardware Store, he had gone to the Dakota Territory, in 1885, to try his hand at ranching on the Missouri River flats fifteen miles northeast of Linton and south of Bismarck. His ranch was in the midst of Sioux Indian country. It had been about seven years since the Sioux had annihilated the force of General Custer on the Little Big Horn in southern Montana. By now they were back on their reservation. Among them was the Sioux medicine man, Sitting Bull. During his stay in Dakota, Stouder visited Sitting Bull, whom he had always admired.

Stouder returned to Fort Wayne in 1886 long enough to marry Mary Ellen Taylor, daughter of John Taylor, an English-born civil engineer, several of whose post Civil War real estate developments appear on Fort Wayne Plat maps. Their first surviving son, George, was born in Dakota. George still has the tiny pair of moccasins made for him by one of his father's Sioux friends.

The Sioux Indians from their reservation across the Missouri River were frequent visitors at the ranch in which Stouder and Dr. Walter Langtry, a Fort Wayne veterinarian, boyhood chum, and Spy Run neighbor, were partners. Mrs. Stouder, however, found it difficult to get used to their Indian neighbors. Early adventure stories of Indian captivities, constantly retold to succeeding generations, did little to dispel her fear. Besides the Sioux tribesmen her husband was chumming around with were the least tamed of the current breed.

One day a Sioux horseman rode up while Mary Ellen Stouder was alone in her sod hut with her infant, George. Without a word he picked up the baby

and rode off with him. What could the terrified mother think but that her child would grow up as an adopted son of the Sioux tribe? However, George was soon brought back, and in 1890 returned to Fort Wayne with his parents. Mrs. Stouder no longer wanted to be a pioneer. So Jacob Stouder returned to his former job in the hardware store at 122 E. Columbia Street, where he specialized in builders' hardware. It was this business he was operating, with several branch stores, at the time Little Turtle's grave was found.

This feeling for the great Sioux leader was unusual in itself, at the time and especially in that locality. Sitting Bull's choice of his village was close to the site of what was to be the last Indian battle in United States history, the massacre of the Sioux village on Wounded Knee Creek, on the border of South Dakota and Nebraska. Sitting Bull had helped stir up the Sioux in the anti-white "Messiah" agitation which led to the battle in 1890.

Many of the 200-300 dead and wounded were Sioux women and children. The battle began when the United States Cavalry tried to disarm the Indians who had surrendered the day before. A concentrated fire from the hand-cranked weapons, including the Hotchkiss machine guns (1878) ". . . developed primarily for shipboard use, being chambered exclusively for the large artillery type of cartridge," was poured into the tepees. About thirty white men were killed. Some of the Indians froze to death on the ground the next day.

Long after Sitting Bull had been killed by some of Stouder's fellow Dakotans, Stouder, back in Fort Wayne, continued to be intrigued with Indians. The Stouder home at Spy Run and Elizabeth Street always had Indian relics lying around. They were almost

crowded out by two Fort Wayne artists, Joseph Dille, and his son, Ralph Dille, although they were accessible enough that visiting grandchildren might take an interest in them. Among these relics was a large war bonnet and a stick with feathers on it which used to sit in the front parlor. Probably, J. M. Stouder would not have objected to small fry trying on the bonnet, but one's mother might have insisted it was verminous.

Stouder also showed his interest in Indians by attending all the Wild West shows that came to town and going around afterward to talk with the visiting Red men. On occasion he might even invite them to come and visit him at his Spy Run domicile. Charles Ashley, who used to live near Stouder, remembers seeing him coming along Spy Run Avenue accompanied by the whole red-skinned contingent of the latest traveling circus.

Probably Stouder was the only resident of Fort Wayne who could speak the Sioux Indian language. The author, personally, recalls Stouder, his grandfather, trying to teach him how to say "Hello" and a few other simple expressions in the Sioux language when Stouder discovered him reading a Boy Scout pamphlet in 1931 on Indian sign language.

When the city of Fort Wayne celebrated the centennial of Indiana statehood with a pageant in Reservoir Park on June 4-9, 1916, Stouder portrayed an Indian. The J. M. Stouder collection of Indian mementoes at the Ohio State Historical Museum in Columbus, Ohio, still testifies to this interest.

MAN OF VARIED INTERESTS

Among Jacob Stouder's other interests was the Fort Wayne Art School. Some of his large collection of paintings by Ralph Dille, local nineteenth century artist, were put on display at the Rudisill School. His home was built on the old Rudisill property. He always said that the apple trees in the backyard were planted by Johnny Appleseed.

Here in the orchard, he would look at the stars through a telescope with a friend, Frank Mulligan, who had made the telescope.

His passion for Burns' poetry which he could quote at length, led to his acceptance as an honorary Scotsman by the local Caledonian Society, which invited him to attend its meetings.

His brother Frank's long connection in booking theatrical attractions into the old Masonic Temple Theatre and the Palace led to an acquaintance with Peter Donald, Scotch comedian on the Old Keith circuit, and his wife, Meta Carson, both of whom always invited him on their trips to Fort Wayne. He thought Donald was funnier than Harry Lauder.

Stouder was also acquainted with Martin and Osa Johnson, the African adventurers, who had lectured at the Old Temple Theatre. Like many in his age bracket, he was an admirer of Anna Held. At one time, a theatrical poster of that celebrated pin-up girl occupied a prominent place in the parlor, along with the paintings, Indian bonnets, sculpture, and other bric-a-brac.

Jacob Stouder's father was Jacob H. Stouder, a native of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, who had operated a railroaders' hotel in Millersport, Ohio, and the Edsall House, likewise a railroad man's hostelry, at the southeast corner of Clinton and East Superior

streets, Fort Wayne, where the Stouder family lived. The elder Stouder had been an indentured farmer until he was twenty-one, when he was given a written release, \$100.00, a suit of clothes, a gun, and a horse.

Stouder's brother, Frank, was well-known as manager of the old Masonic Temple and co-owner of the Palace Theatre, now the Civic Theatre, which was completed in 1915. A sister, Mrs. George McLain, preceded Jacob to Dakota where the family remained.

Jacob M. Stouder came from one of a long line of Pennsylvania Swiss on both sides of his family. They might have had some knowledge of Indians along the Pennsylvania-Maryland border, not far from the scene of pre-Revolutionary Indian wars. By the year 1790, there were three families of that name recorded in the first United States census.

Stouder was active in the local Masonic bodies. Shortly before his death in 1932, he observed his fiftieth anniversary as a member of the Masonic Blue Lodge. He was a past Master of Summit City Lodge, No. 170, F. & A.M.; High Priest of Fort Wayne Chapter, Royal Arch Masons; illustrious Master of Fort Wayne Commandery No. 4, Knights Templar. He was a member of the building committee of the Masonic Temple. During the depression years, he was almoner of the Scottish Rite bodies in Fort Wayne.

He was, at one time, a member of the Allen County Board of Children's Guardians and during the first World War was a local representative of the United States Department of Labor. During the administration of William C. Geake, he served as a councilman from the second ward. During his sojourn in Dakota he served as a justice of the peace.

Jacob M. Stouder was born in Millersport,

Ohio, March 8, 1861. Of the six children born to the Stouders, the first died in infancy in the Dakota Territory. His first wife died in 1923. He was married to Elton Hedrick in 1925. His death occurred on October 13, 1932.

The J. M. Stouder Indian collection was acquired by the Ohio Historical Society from the second Mrs. Stouder, December 10, 1934. It included five Indian pipes, dance leggins, three beaded pouches, a gun case, blanket ornament, doll, sun dance whistle, three pairs of moccasins, tomahawk, horn spoon, three needle cases, an arrow, war bonnet and eagle feathers, beads, arm and hair ornaments, turtle totem, birchbark and porcupine map (Penobscot), birchbark and porcupine model canoe (Penobscot), knife case, and photographs of plains and western Indians of the eighties. Also included were a portrait of Sitting Bull by Paul Warner, and a portrait of Little Turtle by Elmer Stewart.

Stouder's scrap-book containing some of his historical notes on Wells, Whistler, and Hamtramck, early Fort Wayne personalities, is also now in the collection of the Allen County-Fort Wayne Historical Society. A microfilm copy of his Little Turtle correspondence with the Smithsonian Institution, is in the possession of members of the Stouder family in Fort Wayne.

Those who are concerned with the preservation of our goodly heritage never fail to stress the importance of including Chief Little Turtle in any future plan for a memorial in this locality.



N-5 (OCT. 19, 1959)

LITTLE TURTLE'S GRAVE VISITED—Shown kneeling at the grave of Chief Little Turtle is Miss Mary Catherine Smeltzly through whose altruism the site of the Miami leader's grave will soon become a public park. The property at 634 Lawton Place (former home of Dr. and Mrs. George W. Gillie) where the grave is located has been purchased by Miss Smeltzly to be presented to the city as a public park in the name of her deceased sister, Miss Eleanor Smeltzly, and herself under the auspices of the Historical Society of Fort Wayne and Allen County. The house, shown in the background, is being torn down to make room for the park. The Smeltzly sisters, two of Fort Wayne's most widely-traveled citizens, were history teachers in the public school system here until retirement.

Little Turtle Grave Marker Dedicated

The grave of Chief Little Turtle, peace-making Miami Indian of the late 18th Century, was permanently marked yesterday afternoon before 200 persons in outdoor ceremonies at 647 Lawton Place.

Reading the inscription on the new bronze marker was Miss Mary Catherine Smeltzly, a retired history teacher who donated the land to the city. The site, which was dedicated yesterday as a memorial park, was discovered during the construction of a house in 1912. The land was purchased last year by Miss Smeltzly.

Dr. John W. Meister, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, gave the principal address in which he said, "Little Turtle is a man worth remembering because of his dedication to peace." He further said that the chieftain should be appreciated for his con-

tribution to the destiny of the white man.

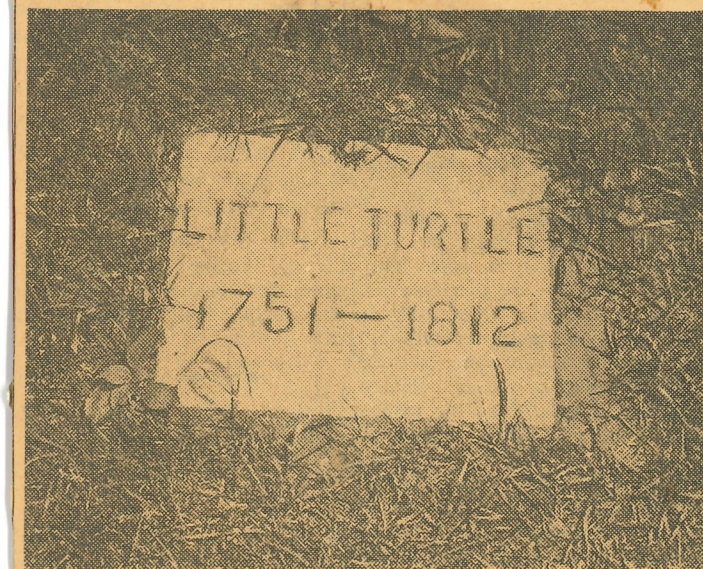
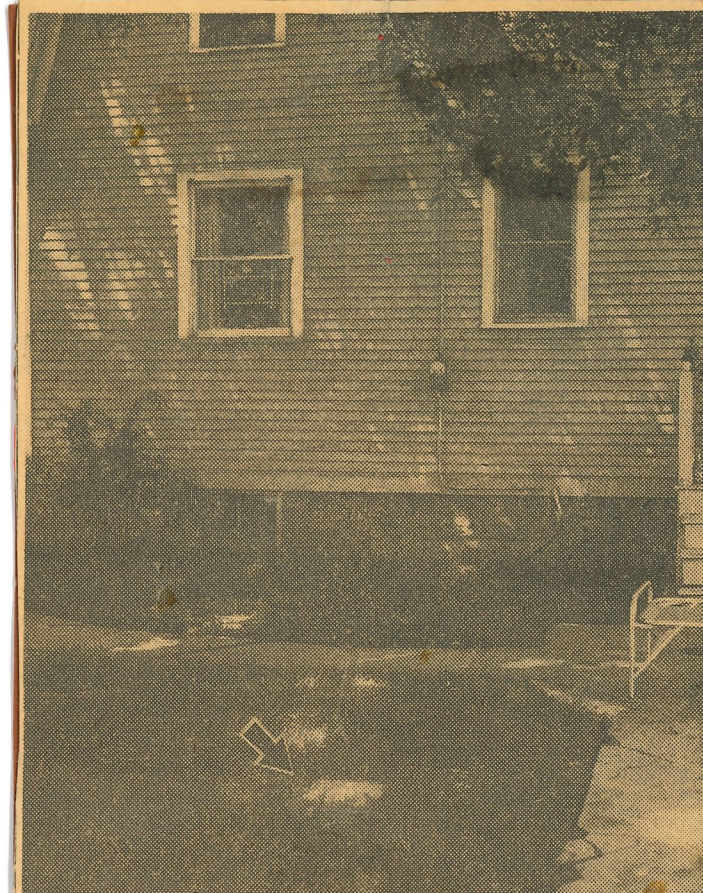
Greetings were given by Mayor Paul Burns; Mrs. Walter Turner, president of the Allen County Council; Willard Shambaugh, president of the Fort Wayne Com-

munity Schools; Fred B. Shoaff, president of the Board of Park Commissioners, and Mrs. J. Howard Wilkens, president of the Allen County-Fort Wayne Historical Society.



LITTLE TURTLE GAINS GRAVE SITE MARKER—Reading inscription on the new bronze marker of Miami Indian chieftain, Little Turtle, is Miss Mary Catherine Smeltzly, retired Central High School history teacher. The grave site was dedicated at 647 Lawton Place yesterday afternoon in formal ceremonies. The former teacher purchased the site last year and donated it to the city as a memorial to the Indian peacemaker. Among the words on the inscription are: "His endeavors toward peace should serve as a inspiration for future generations."

J.G. June 13, 1960



GRAVE TO BECOME SHRINE—The obscure grave of Little Turtle, chief of the Miami Nation, will become a Fort Wayne historical shrine through negotiations of Miss Catherine Smeltzly and a citizen group. The top picture shows the backyard and part of the residence at 634 Lawton Pl. where the great chief was interred, and below is a closeup of the grave marker. The shrine will be developed by the City Park Department under direction of the Allen County-Fort Wayne Historical Society.